

Xag 6-27 Lewis
Xag 3-1
X sec 6 Iraq

CAPITAL REPORT

Iraq Fiasco Raises Stir

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, July 18. — The Dulles brothers—John Foster and Allen—have hit an all-time low in Congressional prestige as a result of the Iraqi fiasco and the clamor for both of their scalps is underway.

There are definite political overtones, naturally, in an election year.

But the White House session with the Congressional leaders brought out such an inadequacy of diplomatic intelligence that even the Republicans were shocked to their boot-tops. The only reason many of them didn't blow off publicly was that Ike insisted on total secrecy, and said any leak of the facts might "jeopardize" the Marine landing in Lebanon.

This successfully sealed all lips for the moment, but the wholesale dissatisfaction was there, nevertheless, and is growing.

The story goes back to the Suez Canal seizure by Egypt's dictator Nasser, and the Dulles-Eisenhower decision at that time, against the British-French-Israeli military operations.

In practical effect, what the United States was doing was backing up Nasser, and on this score Dulles was roundly condemned in the Congress. He was called into repeated huddles with Republican top-siders who warned him that Nasser was not to be trusted, was a dangerous adventurer who should be discredited.

But Dulles was obstinate. He has a high regard for the United States' position in the world, and in forcing the issue of the Suez Canal, he was thus giving the Arab world a victory over the West and a boost to the Nasserist Arab world.

THE CAPITAL criticism was the more bitter because while this righteous role was being played in the Middle East, Dulles in effect was disavowing the freedom fighters of Hungary and was permitting Russia to do in Budapest a brutalizing version of what he said Britain, France and Israel must not do in Egypt.

All this came back to roost at the tense 2½ hour White House Conference. As of that sitting, Nasser had enjoyed more than two years of freedom to plot his coup of the Middle East. But conversely, the State Department and Allen Dulles' CIA had enjoyed the same period of time to watch what Nasser was doing, establish counter-intelligence lines, and be prepared for what might come.

It was clear that the brothers Dulles had done neither. They had been caught hopelessly flat-footed, and Iraq which they had represented as the West's staunchest friend in the Middle East, had gone down the drain in the flash of an instant.

And with it, oil: not only Iraq's oil, but perhaps all of the vitally important oil of the Middle East.

Their only explanation was that the British were caught by surprise too, and the British have heavier investments in Iraq than we have.

To the Congressional top-siders, it had a hollow and unconvincing ring. Two failures do not make a success, and we have been caught in these positions before; the British have not.

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